

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim status

Claims 19–34 are pending. Claims 1-18, 35-58 have been canceled.

Claim Amendment

Applicants have amended claim 19. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 6, lines 1-9. Accordingly, this amendment does not introduce new matter under 35 U.S.C. §132.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 19-34, 47-51, 54-58 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 3,768,521 by Brychta et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants have amended claims 19-34 herein recite an elastomeric block comprising: a first elastomeric layer having a recess formed therein, said recess having a dimension between 0.1. and 1000 μm ; a second elastomeric layer having a recess formed therein, said recess having a dimension between 0.1 μm and 1000 μm , wherein said first elastomeric layer and said second elastomeric layer are bonded together through complimentary bonds between the first elastomeric layer and the second elastomeric layer. The device of Brychta is bolted together (see figure 31). Accordingly, the Brychta does not anticipate the claimed invention because Brychta does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention, for example, an elastomeric block formed of elastomeric layers are bonded together through complimentary bonds between the elastomeric layers. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

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Amdt. dated Apr 21, 2004
Reply to Office action of Oct 21, 2003

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe the claims are now in condition for allowance for the foregoing reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephone conference may be helpful, Applicants' counsel may be contacted at the number below.

Respectfully submitted
under 37 C.F.R. §1.34(a),

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Heinkel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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